Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 2003-2004

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Saskatchewan Centennial 2005

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Letter of Transmittal

Regina, Saskatchewan

The Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for the year ending March 31, 2004, including financial statements for the year audited by the Authority's auditor in a form approved by Treasury Board, all in accordance with *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act.*

David Forbes
Minister Responsible
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

President's Message

The Honourable David Forbes
Minister Responsible
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Sir:

I am pleased to provide this report on the accomplishments and activities of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for the year ending March 31, 2004.

During the reporting period, Authority staff completed work on our strategic plan and made significant progress towards its implementation. Our accomplishments during this reporting period include:

- Release of *Protecting our Water — a Watershed and Aquifer Model for Saskatchewan* and the initiation of watershed and aquifer planning activities in seven priority areas
- Development of a corporate web site and delivery of communications and education programs to create awareness of the Authority and source water issues
- Safety inspections, performance assessments and hydrology reviews on a number of major water control structures, as well as significant refurbishment of major structures such as the Alameda and Avonlea dams
- Improvements to the quality of flood forecasting, as well as improved public access to flood forecasts using the Authority's new website (www.swa.ca)
- Significant progress in collecting and analyzing data to improve the comprehensive mapping of Saskatchewan groundwater.

Our accomplishments during the reporting period have enhanced the Authority's capacity to fulfill our mandate to protect water quantity and source water quality for Saskatchewan citizens.

Stuart Kramer

Stuart Kramer
President
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Who We Are

In October 2002, as a result of Saskatchewan's Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was formed to manage and protect water quantity and source water quality in Saskatchewan. The newly formed Authority amalgamated staff from SaskWater, Saskatchewan Environment and the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation.

Vision

Excellence in Watershed Management
Promoting Safe, Sustainable Water Supplies
in Healthy Ecosystems

Mandate

To manage and enhance the province's water and watershed resources for the environmental, economic and social benefit of citizens

At the end of the reporting period, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority had 184 employees. The Authority's head office is located in Moose Jaw, but many services and programs are delivered through its regions and other offices located in Nipawin, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn and Yorkton.

To manage surface water supplies, the Authority owns and operates 45 dams and 130 kilometres of conveyance channels plus ancillary works. The Authority makes significant investments in rehabilitation and upgrading of this infrastructure each year. The Authority provides hydrology expertise to determine water supplies, guide allocations, and predict floods. All major water allocations, including municipal, industrial, irrigation, and intensive livestock uses, must be approved by the Authority. Authority staff also represent Saskatchewan on trans-boundary water issues.

Saskatchewan's Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy

VISION:

- A sustainable, reliable, safe and clean supply of drinking water that is valued by the citizens of Saskatchewan

PRINCIPLES:

- The strategy is responsive to the needs of all citizens
- Human health is the primary concern
- Preventing risks to drinking water quality, including meeting the National Drinking Water Quality Guidelines, is a high priority
- Transparency and clear lines of accountability and responsibility
- Full-cost pricing for the supply of water
- Commitment to knowledge-based approach
- Partnership among all levels of government and citizens in developing and implementing water management solutions

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Waterworks systems provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water

- Waterworks staff are capable and well-trained
- Infrastructure produces water that meets the National Drinking Water Quality Guidelines
- Waterworks systems and operations are financially sustainable

The drinking water regulatory system is clear and effective

- Regulations are clear and ensure that health and drinking water quality will be protected
- Professional regulatory staff have access to the tools necessary to ensure compliance

Source waters are protected now and into the future

- Risks to source water quality are known
- Watersheds are protected, natural purification and protection processes are maximized and potential for contamination is minimized

Citizens and consumers trust and value their drinking water and the operations that produce it

- Citizens have meaningful access to information about the quality of their water
- Reduced consumption of water
- Consumers value quality water and are willing to pay for it
- Citizens and consumers trust the quality and reliability of their drinking water systems and are confident in the regulatory system

Much of Saskatchewan depends on groundwater for domestic, industrial and agricultural uses. To protect this resource, the Authority licenses all but domestic users to ensure new development does not impact existing users, conducts studies to determine groundwater supplies, and provides information to citizens and industry to help locate groundwater supplies.

The Authority's water control program supports agriculture by helping to maintain the productivity of flood prone land and to address water erosion issues. The Authority also hears formal complaints about drainage causing damage.

Watershed and aquifer planning has been initiated in seven areas to protect source water. The Authority's stewardship and extension programs help landowners improve watershed health through the restoration of riparian areas, the protection of wetlands and grasslands, and the encouragement of management practices which assist fish and wildlife and protect water sources. Assessing the health of the watersheds is an essential aspect of source water protection. The Authority is currently developing a plan for State of Watershed Reporting.

Public support and participation is essential to efforts to protect source water. The Authority therefore works with partners in the Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy to deliver education and information programs to create awareness and understanding of water and watershed issues.

To assist the Authority in achieving its goals and objectives, an Advisory Committee, with representatives from stakeholder and interest groups throughout the province, brings wide-ranging expertise on source water issues. The committee meets approximately three times per year.

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Advisory Committee

- **Dr. Ray Fast,** Saskatoon, Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin (Committee Chair)
- **Marie Ann Bowden,** Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Eco-Network
- **Solomon Carriere,** Cumberland House
- **Doug Chekay,** Regina, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- **Fred Clipsham,** Regina, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
- **James Harvey,** Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association
- **Beth Henderson,** Ponteix, Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural Network
- **Larry Kratt,** Calgary, Canadian Petroleum Producers
- **Susan Lamb,** Saskatoon, Meewasin Valley Authority
- **Merlin W. McFarlane,** Rose Valley, Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association
- **Chief Larry Oakes,** Maple Creek (Nekaneet First Nation) Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- **Terry Ostrander,** Swift Current, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
- **George Smith,** Pinehouse Lake
- **Don Taylor,** Bredenbury, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- **Jill Vaisey**, Regina, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
- **Randy Wells,** Grandmother's Bay Reserve
- **Ray Wild,** Silton, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- **Doug Wilson,** Big Shell Lake, Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan

Legislative Responsibilities

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority administers and is responsible for the following legislation:

- *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*
- *The Conservation and Development Act*
- *The Ground Water Conservation Act*
- *The Water Power Act*
- *The Watershed Association Act*

Funding Resources

As a Treasury Board Crown Corporation, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority relies on several revenue sources, including:

- grants from the province's General Revenue Fund
- water rental charges through *The Water Power Act*
- industrial water use charges
- grants from Saskatchewan Environment, Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, and
- contracts with non-government agencies and associations, and other sources

Organizational Structure

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is a Treasury Board Crown Corporation headed by a President reporting to a Board, with a Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. As of March 31, 2004, the one-person Board is Lily Stonehouse, Deputy Minister of Environment. The Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is the Honourable David Forbes.

Four units report to the President:

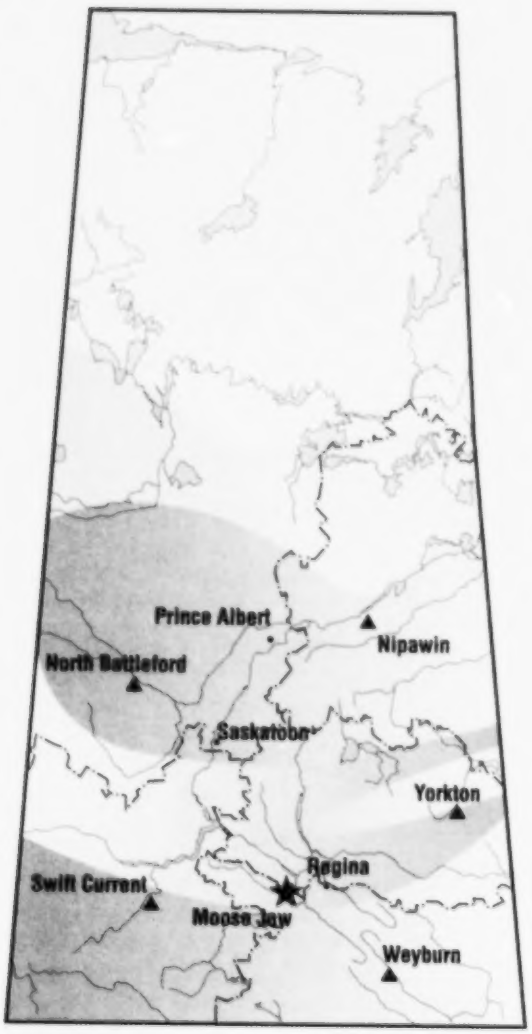
- Operations
- Stewardship
- Policy and Communications, and
- Corporate and Human Services

The Corporate and Human Services Division also provides human resources, finance, administration, legal and information systems support to SaskWater on a contractual basis.

Figure 1 – Organization by function

2003-2004 Performance Results

During the first eight months of the Authority's existence, significant effort was committed to the development of a long term strategic plan, in accordance with the Saskatchewan government's policy on performance management,



★ *Head Office*

▲ *Regional Office*

Figure 2 – Regions and Offices

accountability and reporting. By this policy, each department and agency now publishes an Annual Performance Plan at the beginning of the reporting period. The Annual Report, then, is an accounting of progress made in the implementation of this Annual Performance Plan. Ideally, the Annual Report will be structured to reflect the goals, objectives, key actions and performance measures as set forth in the Annual Performance Plan.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's first strategic plan was substantially complete at the beginning of the reporting period. The Authority used that plan to guide its actions through the year. This Annual Report is structured to reflect the goals, objectives and key actions as set forth in the long term strategic plan.

The Authority's goals and objectives are:

- **Goal 1** — Safe and sustainable water supplies
  - **Objective 1** — Water management infrastructure is safe and meets operational requirements
  - **Objective 2** — Water supply is reliable
  - **Objective 3** — Flood damage is minimized
- **Goal 2** — Healthy watersheds and aquifers
  - **Objective 1** — Source waters and watersheds are protected
  - **Objective 2** — Public is aware of the importance of healthy watersheds

Each section of this report will report on one of these objectives, with reference to the key actions identified in the strategic plan. In future years, progress towards performance measures will also be reported.

The Authority has released its Annual Performance Plan for 2004-2005. The 2004-2005 and future Annual Reports will report on progress against the Annual Performance Plan. This reflects the Authority's commitment to meaningful and effective accountability.

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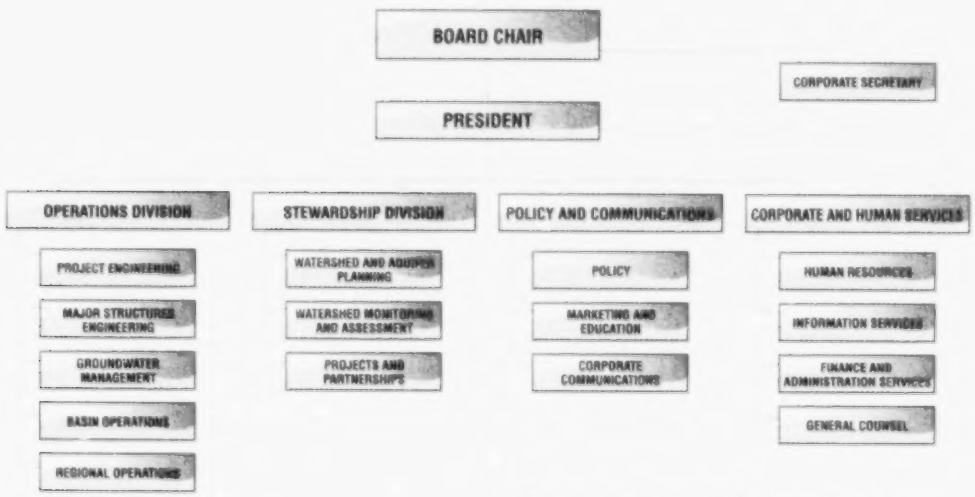

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Goal 1: Safe and Sustainable Water Supply

Objective 1: *Water Management Infrastructure Is Safe and Meets Operational Requirements*

The Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 45 dams and approximately 130 kilometres of conveyance channels, as well as other water management infrastructure throughout the province. These works provide essential water management functions including water for municipal and industrial use, irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, flood control, wildlife and recreation. The principal water management works are the Gardiner, Qu'Appelle, Rafferty and Alameda dams. The current estimated replacement cost of the Authority's infrastructure is $1.37 billion. The most significant facilities are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Significant Facilities in Operation

1. Alameda Dam and Associated Facilities
2. Avonlea Dam
3. Boundary to Rafferty Diversion Channel
4. Blackstrap North Dam
5. Blackstrap South Dam
6. Bradwell East Dam
7. Bradwell West Dam
8. Brightwater Creek Dam
9. Broderick East Dam
10. Broderick West Dam
11. Buffalo Pound Dam
12. Candle Lake Control Structure
13. Chicken Lake Dam
14. Cowan Lake Dam
15. Darmody Dam
16. Dellwood Brook Dam
17. Emma Lake Diversion (Anglin Lake Pump Station)
18. Esterhazy Dam
19. Five Mile Dam
20. Gardiner Dam
21. Hugonard Dam
22. Katepwa Lake Control Structures
23. Kingsway Dam
24. Kipahagan Dam
25. Lac la Plonge Control Structure
26. Lac la Ronge Control Structure
27. Lumsden Floodway
28. Makwa Lake Control Structure
29. Moose Mountain Dam
30. Northminster Effluent Reservoir
31. Opuntia Lake Dam
32. Pike Lake Pump Station
33. Qu'Appelle River Dam
34. Qu'Appelle River Conveyance Channels
35. Rafferty Dam
36. Rafferty - Causeway 606
37. Rafferty - Causeway 705
38. Rafferty Closure Dam R3-2
39. Rafferty Closure Dam R4-1
40. Round (Sinfield) Lake Control Structure
41. Scott Dam
42. Souris River Conveyance Channels
43. Spruce River Dam
44. Star City Dam
45. Stelcam Weir
46. Summercove Dam
47. Teepee Creek Dam
48. Theodore Dam
49. Wascana Lake Weir
50. West Poplar Dam
51. Woody Lake Weir
52. Zelma Dam

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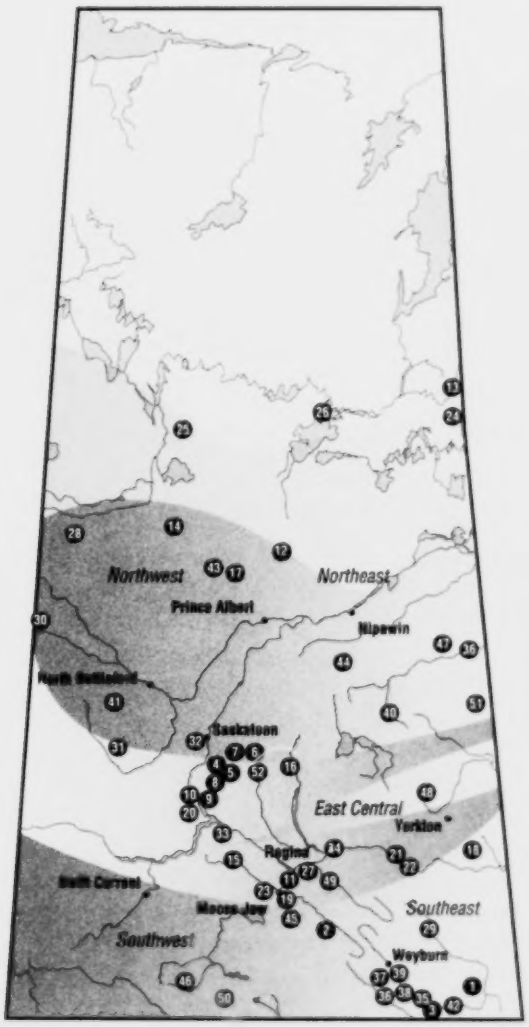

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52. Zelma Dam

By April 1, 2005, complete a study assessing the need for provincial dam safety legislation and make recommendations to Cabinet

This study was initiated near the end of the reporting period. Dam safety legislation in other provincial and state jurisdictions was researched and documented.

Maintain a dam safety program to assess, on a regular and ongoing basis, the safety of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's dams and dykes

More than 50% of the Authority's structures are 35 years old or older. Not only has their physical condition declined over time, but in many instances, the criteria used for their design falls well short of today's standards. In addition, most of these structures were designed and built in a time when potential environmental effects such as impacts on fish were not as great a concern as today. Aside from the need to ensure structural integrity, fish passageways need to be constructed at some facilities and improved at others.

To assess the safety of its works, the Authority undertakes a number of activities including comprehensive safety inspections, performance monitoring, safety analyses and hydrology reviews. During the year, comprehensive safety inspections were conducted at Buffalo Pound, Blackstrap North, Blackstrap South and Brightwater Creek dams, as well as Wascana Weir. Performance monitoring was undertaken at Gardiner, Qu'Appelle, Rafferty, Alameda, Theodore, Blackstrap South, Buffalo Pound, Northminster and Avonlea dams. Safety analyses and hydrology reviews were completed for the Gardiner, Qu'Appelle, Lac La Plonge and Hugonard dams. The total cost of the Authority's dam safety activities during the reporting period was $126,471.

Investigate, design and undertake project rehabilitation necessary to satisfy current dam safety criteria and/or fulfill operational objectives

During the year $3,383,538 was expended on the design and rehabilitation of the Authority's water management infrastructure. The more significant activities undertaken during the year included:

Alameda Dam—The two main low level outlet gates were taken out of service in the spring of 1999 due to concern with the reliability of their operation. Following investigations and works re-design, the gates were repaired and returned to service in 2003. The total design and repair cost was approximately $800,557, of which $305,716 was incurred in 2003-2004. In the autumn of 2003, operational problems with the two irrigation outlet control gates were also experienced. Investigations to resolve this issue were initiated prior to year end. Upon receipt of replacement actuators, the gates will be modified and returned to service in the summer of 2004-2005.

Avonlea Dam—Construction of the second and final phase of this rehabilitation project was initiated in August 2003. This phase of the upgrading involves widening the existing earthcut emergency spillway, reducing the slope of the downstream face of the dam and raising the top of the dam by 2.0 m. Approximately 70% of this work was completed prior to freeze-up in November at a cost of $1,137,375. The balance of the Phase 2 work will occur in 2004-2005 and includes repairing the rural municipal access road to the dam site, laying an asphalt concrete roadway across the dam, installing a guard rail, project grassing and clean-up. With the completion of the work, the safety of residents and others downstream of the dam will be much improved as will the security of water supplies to users including the Town of Avonlea, the Redthorpe Rural Pipeline Utility, Dunnet Regional Park, Long Creek Golf Club and the Avonlea Irrigation District.

Cowan Lake Dam—Project rehabilitation designs were finalized during the year and works upgrading was initiated. A scour hole, which had formed immediately downstream of the structure, was infilled and armoured in the autumn. Work that was carried over to 2004-2005 includes concrete repairs and work to improve the hydraulic operation of the structure. Metal stop logs were also fabricated for installation in 2004. Of the total estimated $420,000 project cost, $298,230 was incurred during the reporting year.

Lac La Ronge Control Structure—A number of safety issues exist with this concrete control structure located at the outlet of Lac La Ronge. These include erosion of the concrete work, damaged radial gates components, and stop log handling facilities that are very labour intensive to operate and pose an excessive safety risk to operators. The control structure also impedes the passage of fish from the Rapid River into the lake. In 2003-2004, a design to rehabilitate the control structure was substantially completed at a cost $112,944. Completion of this design, as well as design work for a fish passageway for this structure, is proposed for early 2004-2005, with construction planned for later in the year.

Katepwa Lake Outlet Control Structure—Significant deterioration of the 60 metre long timber weir at the outlet of Katepwa Lake, including corrosion of the riparian pipe, has occurred over the past 20 years. In addition, a large hole has formed immediately upstream of the weir and is threatening the foundation of the structure. In 2003-2004, a design to rehabilitate the structure was largely completed at a cost of $32,643.

Upper Qu'Appelle River Channel—Water is released from Lake Diefenbaker into the Qu'Appelle River for transit to Buffalo Pound Lake and downstream. Approximately 25% of the province's population, including the cities of Regina and Moose Jaw, as well as numerous industries, irrigators, stock growers and other agricultural users, depend on this water supply. In addition, this supply is used to stabilize lake levels along the Qu'Appelle River system for the benefit of recreational users, cottage owners, fish and wildlife.

The conveyance capacity of the uppermost 32 kilometres of this 92 kilometre long channel was increased in the mid-1960s to approximately 14 cubic metres per second. Owing to erosion, siltation, and weed growth, the current conveyance capacity of the channel is less than eight cubic metres per second by mid-summer. With each passing year, it is becoming more difficult to maintain the channel. In addition, overbank flooding is occurring with increasing frequency, causing damage to private lands.

In 2003-2004, the Authority intensified investigations to identify and design conveyance works to satisfy water demands that can reasonably be anticipated over the next 30 years. Of the various water supply alternatives examined, upgrading the conveyance capacity of the existing river channel was determined to be the most economically and technically viable option. The amount of upgrading to be undertaken has yet to be determined by assessing financial costs and environmental implications, as well as stakeholder and public feedback.

In addition to preliminary engineering investigations, environmental studies were initiated, foremost of which were studies assessing fish habitat and fish presence in this river reach throughout the year. The combined cost of the engineering and environmental studies was $212,597.

During 2004-2005, the Authority will undertake stakeholder and public consultation to complete environmental and engineering investigations, prepare a preliminary design for the entire project, and the final design for the initial year of the construction program. Construction will be phased over a five or six year period.

Wascana Weir—A 25-metre length of Wascana Creek immediately downstream of the weir was armoured with rock rip-rap to prevent undercutting of the foundation of the structure. In addition, a number of repairs to the concrete structure were made. The total expended in 2003-2004 for project rehabilitation was $284,415. The Authority was able to achieve significant cost savings by scheduling much of the work to coincide with downstream channel improvements undertaken by the City of Regina as well as the Wascana Lake deepening project.

Other Infrastructure Rehabilitation Activities—Rehabilitation work was also undertaken during the year at the following projects:

- Makwa Weir
- Gardiner Dam
- Pike Lake
- Stelcam Weir
- Emma Lake Diversion Channel
- Boundary—Rafferty Diversion Channel
- Bradwell East Dam

Project investigations and designs were initiated and/or continued at:

- Blackstrap North Dam
- Moose Mountain Dam
- Hugonard Dam
- Theodore Dam

The total cost of these activities was $469,470.

Maintain and operate water management infrastructure

Maintenance was performed at the Authority's four major structures in accordance with five-year operation and maintenance plans, and at other structures on an as-needed basis. The works were operated to furnish water supplies and satisfy international apportionment obligations in a timely manner. During the year, $1,477,969 was devoted to maintenance and operation of the Authority's infrastructure.

On a regular and ongoing basis, monitor and assess the ability of the Authority's water management infrastructure to satisfy operational objectives

A total of 35 of the Authority's 45 dams were inspected during the year. Stream flow metering and stage-discharge measurements were undertaken along the Upper Qu'Appelle River system to aid in the design of proposed channel improvements.

Goal 1: Safe and Sustainable Water Supply

Objective 2: *Water Supply is Reliable*

Develop a strategy to enforce Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and Water Appeal Board decisions and orders

The Authority is working with officials from Saskatchewan Environment to determine how best to deal with enforcement of Authority orders as well as possible amendments to the existing appeals process.

Review and revise fees and charges for the sale and use of water resources and Authority services

Water rental charges for hydro-power generation were increased by 1.2% in accordance with *The Water Power Act* and the charges applied to industrial water users were increased by 2.3% in January 2004. Applications fees for Water Rights were reviewed during the year and new fees that better reflect the cost of processing an application will be introduced in 2004-2005.

Integrate, where feasible and practical, the potential for integration of water quality data collection with the collection of hydrometric data

The Authority has reviewed the location of water quality sampling stations and hydrometric sites and examined the possibility of combining the water quality sampling and stream flow measurements. More progress on integration is expected in 2004-2005.

Provide information on water supplies to promote socio-economic development

Information provided by the Authority assisted socio-economic development in a number of communities. Examples include:

- The rural municipalities of Gull Lake and Piapot are experiencing a growing demand for water as a result of oil and gas development, and an increasing need for good quality water to support agricultural activities. A major source of water for the area is the town of Gull Lake's bulk water line, which supplies treated water. Growing demand was putting excess pressure on the town's treatment system. The Authority helped to identify an opportunity to use raw water from the supply line leading to the town, which resulted in a community water source being developed outside of town boundaries. This reduced traffic inside the community and lowered demand on the town's treatment system. A project was developed by the two rural municipalities in 2003.
- The Authority helped a group of developers in the Rural Municipality of Lawtonia area evaluate alternative water sources for a 10,000 to 20,000 head feedlot. A number of surface and groundwater sources were identified.

Delineate and quantify groundwater resources in agricultural Saskatchewan

Activities on this key action progressed on schedule. Work on the provincial groundwater mapping project continued with initiation of the Saskatoon map sheet. This ongoing mapping project is a cooperative project with the Saskatchewan Research Council. A major step forward in an improved understanding of

provincial groundwater resources was completion of a draft report for the groundwater resource assessment pilot project in mid-January. These assessments will be based on the groundwater mapping, but will contain significantly more information and interpretation in order to be of use to non-groundwater professionals, municipalities and the public.

The pilot project will help define the project methodology and provide a basis for discussions with potential partners. These partners include the Saskatchewan Research Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Progress on other tasks related to this action continued, primarily focused on data base related activities such as conversion of data into a Geographical Information Systems format and scanning of geophysical information submitted by well drillers.

Assess operation and direct the operation of all significant provincial water diversion works

The Authority managed its own 45 water control structures and directed the water supply management of 20 federally owned reservoirs and related diversion works located on provincial, inter-provincial and international streams to meet irrigation, municipal and domestic water use demands, and international apportionment obligations.

Allocate water and regulate water works including drainage in a sustainable manner, balancing water quality, environmental, social and economic objectives

The Authority regulates development that affects our water resources. Land drainage and surface and groundwater use are regulated by *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*. The regulation of works helps ensure that projects do not cause damage to others. Through issuing Water Rights to allocate water resources, and approving the construction of water control projects, annual diversions of water are allocated for municipal, industrial, irrigation and other uses. Regulating the use of water ensures approvals are given only to those developments where there is a sustainable supply of water.

Permits/Approvals	*Surface Water*	*Ground Water*
Approval to construct works	55	8
Water Rights	86	156
Approvals–private domestic dams	200	n/a
Temporary water use permits	1905	n/a
Groundwater investigation permits	n/a	44

Continue to encourage use of the complaint process as a means to resolve drainage complaints

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act allows a person to file a complaint against drainage works that are causing or are anticipated to cause damage. Decisions and orders rendered by the Authority under the Act may be appealed to the Water Appeal Board. Before rendering a decision, the Authority conducts a thorough investigation and may hold formal hearings, if requested by one of the parties to the dispute. During the reporting period 14 formal hearings were conducted, 25 new formal complaints were received, and 23 complaints were resolved. The 2002-2003 carry over was reduced to 15 from 27, by rendering 11 decisions and having one complaint withdrawn.

Represent provincial water management interests to meet First Nations, inter-provincial, and international obligations

The Authority represents Saskatchewan on a number of inter-jurisdictional water management boards, including:

- Prairie Provinces Water Board
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
- International Souris River Board of Control

Each of these boards met at least twice during the reporting period. The boards ensure that the terms and conditions of various water sharing agreements are met.

The Authority also participates in the Poplar River Bilateral Monitoring Committee and the Milk River International Alliance.

The Authority is discussing the possibility of a co-management arrangement with several Qu'Appelle Valley First Nations. These discussions are related to current negotiations with Canada and Qu'Appelle Valley First Nations regarding the operation of water control structures at Echo, Crooked and Round lakes. In support of these negotiations, the Authority collaborated with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to acquire high resolution satellite imagery of the Qu'Appelle Valley. This imagery provides a means of visualizing and predicting the effect of changing water levels.

Goal 1: Safe and Sustainable Water Supply

Objective 3: ***Flood Damage is Minimized***

Develop emergency preparedness plans for Rafferty, Alameda and Qu'Appelle dams. Assess need for preparation of plans for 11 Authority dams where potential for loss of life may exist

Work has begun on updating the Gardiner Dam emergency preparedness plan. The existing Gardiner Dam plan outlines expected flood levels downstream of the dam during high flow releases or resulting from a dam failure. It also outlines provincial government actions and responsibilities during these emergencies. The plan is roughly five years old and needs an overall updating as well as annual updates to reflect ongoing changes in emergency planning personnel.

Alameda Dam, on Moose Mountain Creek, has never had an Emergency Preparedness Plan. Work has been initiated on the development of flood mapping for the reaches of the river downstream of the dam. The synthesized flood levels will be used to develop a plan for Alameda Dam.

Define flood prone areas and encourage municipalities to allow appropriate developments only

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Flood Damage Reduction Program, during the 1980s, 25 communities were identified as flood prone. Studies were completed on most of these communities, identifying flood elevations for zoning to protect new development. The program was developed to encourage communities to use the flood elevations as a basis for zoning bylaws to restrict or eliminate new development in flood prone areas. Sixteen communities have proceeded to the final designation stage by passing zoning bylaws that respect flood hazard areas.

Seven of the 25 flood prone communities, including Saskatoon and Regina, embraced the flood hazard mapping developed by the Flood Damage Reduction Program, by incorporating the flood lines into their zoning bylaws. These communities developed zoning bylaws respecting flood hazard areas which met the objectives of the program, but did not proceed to the final designation stage.

Two communities have completed considerable work either upstream or within the community that reduces the flood potential. Weyburn has channelized the Souris River and developed an effective dyking system for flood protection. The City of Estevan has benefited significantly from the flood protection offered by Rafferty Dam and reservoir. Flooding potential there has been significantly reduced. In each of these communities, flood plain studies are being completed and new floodplain mapping is being prepared. The mapping will delineate flood hazard areas. Work is nearing completion on both these communities.

In 2003, the Authority along with the Community Planning Branch of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs worked with the Town of Lumsden to develop a planning statement and municipal bylaw which respected the flood prone areas delineated in the town.

The Authority has been working extensively with the communities of Regina, Moose Jaw and Estevan to update hydrologic and hydraulic studies, and flood plain mapping. The Authority also looked at several proposed and existing subdivisions in Regina and Moose Jaw to delineate flood prone areas.

Enhance flood forecasting and improve public access to flood forecasts

Through its improved web site, the Authority has been working to increase public access to flood forecasts and water level information. The monthly water supply and flood forecasts, and the weekly operations plans for the Saskatchewan River basin, are now available on the Authority web site. Work to improve flood forecasts, river flow information and the data handling capabilities of the River Forecast Centre continues as new technology becomes available.

Fund and support the Water Control Program, emphasizing maintenance of existing infrastructure

The Authority provides administrative, investigative, financial and technical assistance to Conservation and Development Area Authorities, Watershed Associations, and municipalities for water and flood control projects that help alleviate flooding and drainage problems associated with agricultural lands.

Maintenance—Technical and financial assistance is available for weed and brush control, maintenance or replacement of water control structures and crossings, removal of silt and other obstructions. During the year, 66 local governments received more than $250,000 in grant assistance, including:

- *Wascana Conservation Area Authority*—Silt, vegetation and debris were removed along three kilometres of McGill Creek and spoil pile leveling along the Wascana main channel was completed to restore the land back to a usable condition.
- *Lanigan Creek Dellwood Brook Watershed Association*—Mowing, brush clearing, minor silt removal and spoil leveling was carried out on the Lanigan Creek, Waterloo-Hunter Creek and Wolverine Lake flood control projects.
- *Moose Range Conservation Area Authority*—Work included willow control spraying, re-shaping of conveyance works, structure repair, and mowing.

Channel Clearing—Assistance supports the removal of trees, brush, deadfall and other obstructions that cause flooding and erosion problems to roads and adjacent lands. In 2003-2004, 59 local governments were provided nearly $88,000, including:

- *Rural Municipality of Foam Lake*—Clearing numerous culverts that had been plugged by beaver activity, causing roads to wash out and flooding of agricultural lands.
- *Rural Municipality of Willowdale*—Beaver dams which caused flooding to agricultural lands and municipal roads were removed and a large silt bar near a bridge over the Qu'Appelle River was removed. The silt bar was causing erosion to the bank of the river and threatening the integrity of the bridge and municipal road.

- *Rural Municipality of Shellbrook*—Channel clearing along 6.5 kilometres of Bell Creek was undertaken and a rock ford crossing that was impounding water was lowered. A beaver dam and several culverts were also cleared.

Capital Projects—The Authority provides technical and financial assistance to Conservation and Development Area Authorities and Watershed Associations to complete design work and undertake the construction of projects. During the reporting period, nearly $149,000 was provided for 13 projects, including:

- *Moose Range Conservation Area Authority*—Construction of the Carrot River West Flood Control Project was completed during the summer of 2003. The work involved excavating and grading 10 kilometres of conveyance works and some adjacent roadways, and installing nine culvert structures. Legal surveying remains to be completed on this project.
- *Gravelbourg North Conservation Area Authority*—Reconstruction and upgrading of the Gravelbourg North Flood Control Project, a 315 hectare backflood irrigation-drainage project, was 95% completed in 2003. The pump lift system and shallow outlet ditch were replaced with a deeper ditch and a control structure that discharges water under gravity.

Goal 2: Healthy Watersheds and Aquifers

Objective 1: *Source Waters and Watersheds are Protected*

The Authority is responsible for watershed management activities including watershed and aquifer planning, developing partnerships and projects that reflect best management practices, and monitoring and assessing watershed landscapes to ensure the protection and restoration of the province's water sources.

Develop a watershed/aquifer planning and implementation model

Planning for the protection of drinking water sources is a critical step to ensure the availability of adequate supplies of high quality water. Considerable effort has been directed to developing a planning model to guide the delivery of watershed and aquifer planning throughout Saskatchewan. *Protecting our Water: A Watershed and Aquifer Planning Model for Saskatchewan* was completed and officially announced in October 2003.

Identify as a foundation for each watershed and aquifer plan, the major issues to be addressed and the potential solutions

Guided by the watershed and aquifer planning model, and with a focus on source water protection, planning activities are underway in six watersheds and one aquifer, selected on the basis of need and pre-existing activity.

- North Saskatchewan River Battle River Watershed
- South Saskatchewan River Watershed
- Upper Qu'Appelle River Watershed
- Assiniboine River Watershed
- Lower Souris River Watershed
- Moose Jaw River Watershed
- Yorkton Aquifer

Figure 4 – Watershed Regions

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- Upper Qu'Appelle River Watershed
- Assiniboine River Watershed
- Lower Souris River Watershed
- Moose Jaw River Watershed
- Yorkton Aquifer

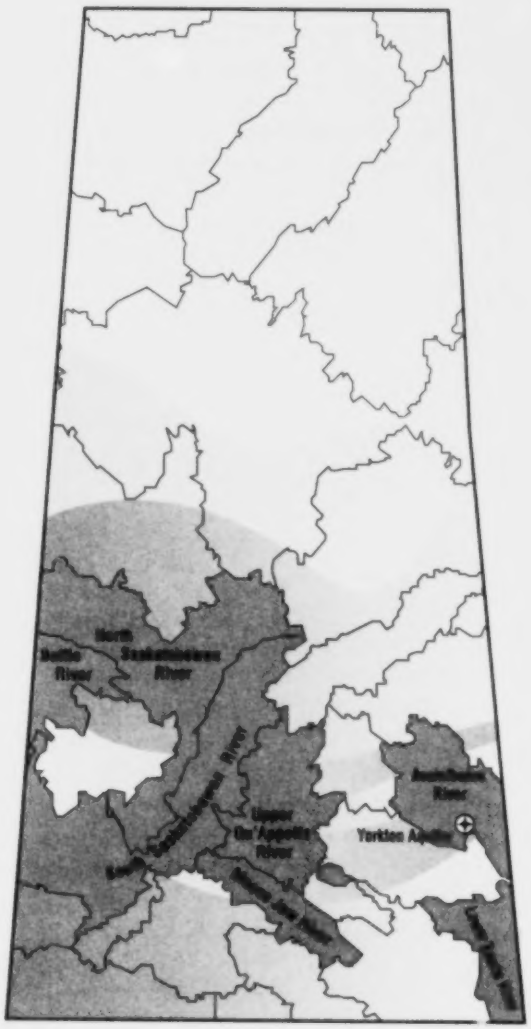

Figure 4 – Watershed Regions

As a first step in plan development, watershed residents are meeting to identify and discuss the wide range of issues affecting source water protection in their watersheds and aquifers. Issues range from those activities, rural or urban, which are thought to influence water quality, to those that threaten sustainable water supply.

Lead the development of watershed and aquifer management plans involving participation and support from stakeholders

Watershed and aquifer advisory committees have been assembled in each of the seven planning areas. Committee participants represent a range of development and stewardship interests.

In most areas, representatives of 30 or more interest groups are actively meeting, developing objectives and in some cases, publishing newsletters and seeking funding from third parties to support stewardship initiatives. The size and complexity of watersheds has resulted in the establishment of two to four sub-watershed advisory committees within each planning area. Ultimately, a single, comprehensive plan will be developed for each watershed or aquifer.

Regularly assess and prioritize watershed and aquifers for planning activities based on societal and ecological needs

In 2003-2004, the Authority conducted an extensive analysis of various physical, biological and socio-economic watershed attributes. This analysis helps the Authority prioritize planning activities.

Develop comprehensive management plans and create a land management system for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority land and secure critical areas of habitat

The breeding density and success of upland nesting grassland birds was documented at 27 sites in six habitat categories on Authority lands surrounding the Rafferty and Alameda reservoirs. Information from the survey will help the Authority manage these lands and fulfill the waterfowl requirements of the Federal License to Construct under the *International Rivers Improvement Act*. During the 2003 season, an estimated 1,214 hatched waterfowl broods were produced from these lands—an amount that exceeds the pre-construction estimate of 884 broods. Nests of 33 species were located, including a number of high priority grassland species.

Extensive vegetation assessments were gathered in the summer of 2003 by Authority staff. The baseline information gathered in these assessments will be used to maintain and improve the overall health and function of the Authority land holdings. Many of these lands are leased for haying and grazing by surrounding landowners, and improved management will be used as a tool to provide watershed benefits from Authority land and to expand beneficial management practices on surrounding land. Sustainable, multi-use land management decisions will incorporate local landowners, federal and provincial pasture systems and Authority lands for landscape level effectiveness.

Define scale objective, key indicators, structure and the Watershed Authority unit roles for the State of the Watershed Report

The Authority has proposed a general framework for State of the Watershed Reports. This framework, to be used on subsequent watershed-specific reports, includes:

- an overall discussion of Saskatchewan watersheds
- the stress-condition-response model
- proposed indexes/indicators, and
- a watershed report-schedule for successive reports

The first report is slated for 2005-2006.

Inventory, maintain and make accessible existing Authority data, and develop sampling protocols and programs with partners to guide watershed monitoring

The Authority undertook a review of its data collection and data analysis protocols with the objective of improving data quality and assessment. The Saskatchewan Water Quality Index has been adopted in an effort to simplify the reporting of water quality data. The Index provides meaningful summaries of overall water quality and trends, while producing output that is useful to both resource managers and the general public. In addition, the Authority has merged the Lake Stewardship Program and the Prairie Water Care Program to better suit the evolving needs of stewardship groups and the Authority's role in source water protection.

Prioritize future options for improving database quality (accessibility, format, linkages and accessing external data)

The Authority has conducted ongoing Geographic Information Systems data base development, maintenance and updating to ensure that the quality of this base data meets its needs. Numerous visualizations, maps, and statistical calculations have been created to help the Authority make well informed decisions.

In 2003, the Authority worked with Saskatchewan Environment to create the Saskatchewan Stream Network, a computer-based model of the hydrological processes in Saskatchewan's watersheds.

In 2004, a Geographic Information Systems strategic plan will be developed to provide better coordination and organization of related activities throughout the organization.

Contribute to the annual Drinking Water Report

The Authority leads or contributes to the implementation of four objectives and 11 key actions contained in the province's multi-departmental Drinking Water Strategy. Progress is reported to Cabinet on an annual basis as required by *The Environmental Management and Protection Act.*

Coordinate the North American Waterfowl Management Plan delivery

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an agreement among Canada, the United States and Mexico to restore waterfowl populations and to improve habitat for other wetland dependent wildlife. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority coordinates the Plan in Saskatchewan, and approves all proposals before they are submitted to Canadian and American funding agencies. During the year, the Authority established an interagency technical committee to review and approve these project proposals.

In 2003, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Saskatchewan Environment, Environment Canada and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation delivered North American Waterfowl Management Plan programs. Activities included extension work with 2,000 producers, working with 110 producers to establish perennial cover on 9,591 hectares, and a program to promote growing winter cereals.

In conjunction with Saskatchewan Environment, address acid precipitation issues in Northern Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Environment continues to address acid rain issues via the Memorandum of Understanding on Acid Precipitation between Alberta and Saskatchewan. Given the early stage of the work on acid precipitation in Saskatchewan, the Authority has not been directly involved to date.

Participate in an update of the Provincial Surface Water Quality Objectives

Saskatchewan Environment has just started to update the 1997 Saskatchewan Water Quality Objectives. The Authority expects to be more intensively involved in upcoming years as objectives are updated to reflect current knowledge and science.

Develop new partnerships to reduce erosion from ephemeral channels and riparian areas in highly cultivated landscapes

The Authority partnered with the Conservation Learning Centre, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and others to develop a proposal for a pilot project in the Carrot River watershed. Funding has been obtained from Green Cover Canada.

Assist landowners to move or improve cattle wintering sites to reduce risk of contaminated run off into streams and lakes

Follow-up contact was maintained with three landowners who initiated cattle wintering site projects in 2002-2003, to ensure completion of these projects.

Work with landowners to develop grazing and land-use programs to improve in-stream and streamside (lakeside) cover

A total of 43 projects were initiated with landowners to develop grazing and land-use programs to improve in-stream and streamside/lakeside cover, benefiting 769 hectares of native prairie, 26 kilometres of streams, and 228 hectares of wetlands.

Implement prairie and upland management plans to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil moisture

A total of 35 projects were initiated with landowners to implement prairie and upland management plans to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil moisture. These projects benefited 2,737 hectares of native prairie, 10 kilometres of streams, and 175 hectares of wetlands.

Three on-farm planning workshops were conducted with 40 landowners to develop farm management plans. A total of 148 in-person visits with landowners were undertaken. Technical training sessions on range assessment methods for professional and extension staff from various agencies were conducted.

Work toward an agreement with Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration to use the Agricultural Policy Framework to assist in restoring the health of watersheds

The Authority worked with a multi-agency team of experts to develop the water component of a scan to help guide the implementation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Environmental Farm Plan.

Deliver the Rural Water Quality Program and assess priorities for future delivery

The Rural Water Quality Advisory Program provides technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, acreage owners, and other rural residents who rely on private water supplies for general household use and human consumption. More than 2,500 water supplies have been sampled through this program since its inception in 1997, with 460 sites sampled in 2003-2004. The analytical data has shown that source water quality can be quite variable, and has highlighted a number of health related and aesthetic concerns in Saskatchewan water supplies. Health concerns in groundwater supplies include elevated nitrate, total coliform bacteria, arsenic, selenium, and uranium levels, while aesthetic concerns include high levels of minerals, iron, and manganese. The collected water quality information is incorporated into a provincial groundwater database, which aids in the development of groundwater supplies and management of the resource.

Survey and assess weirs, dams, levees, and low level crossings to determine their impedance to fish migration and importance for spawning

The abundance, habitat availability and habitat associations of Bigmouth Buffalo and other fish species were recorded from spring through early fall in the Upper Qu'Appelle River. In early May, almost 100 adult Bigmouth Buffalo, a species at risk, were recorded moving out of Fairy Hill Marsh to the Qu'Appelle River. The reproductive condition of these fish indicated many had spawned on flooded vegetation of Fairy Hill Marsh. A vegetation monitoring plan was established to assess the impact of management practices to control scentless camomile. Vegetation assessments on six permanent transects at Fairy Hill Marsh were completed and a stop-log structure was constructed to improve water levels for the fish.

A Fisheries Habitat Assessment was conducted on the South Saskatchewan River south of Saskatoon to determine the biological effects of a dyke constructed by SaskWater. The assessment concluded that a net gain of fish habitat was realized as a result of the dyke construction. A construction plan for a new riffle structure at Leaf Lake was completed. This riffle structure will allow fish to utilize a shallow marsh for spawning and rearing. A new fishway for Lac la Ronge was designed. A new bypass channel will allow fish to migrate from downstream lakes into Lac la Ronge.

Goal 2: Healthy Watersheds and Aquifers

Objective 2: ***Public is Aware of the Importance of Healthy Watersheds***

Develop a public education strategy in support of the Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy

The Authority led the development of an interdepartmental public education plan as part of its commitments under the Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy. The plan requires delivery agencies (the Authority; SaskWater; Saskatchewan Environment; Saskatchewan Health; Saskatchewan Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs; Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization) to increase their current knowledge, develop a better understanding of local water issues, target information to specific audiences, and devise methods to deliver information effectively. Implementation of the plan began in January 2004.

Develop a public awareness campaign on the role of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority in watershed management

To increase awareness of the Authority's programs and services, Authority staff spoke to many groups, attended trade shows and conferences, developed a corporate website and placed stories in the media. Two new eight foot displays were constructed reflecting the new role of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. These, plus four other tabletop units, were used to promote programs and services at major trade shows and conferences.

The *Prairie Update* newsletter was broadened to include watershed features and stakeholder profiles and is now attracting interest from outside the rural community. Four issues were produced and distributed to approximately 1500 prairie stewardship partners throughout the province.

Develop a comprehensive corporate website with appropriate links to the Saskatchewan Water Information Management

A new web site was developed to provide information on the Authority's mandate, responsibilities, plans and activities. The web site features water supply and lake level information, downloadable publications, interactive maps that guide users through watersheds and basins, priority work areas and landowner demonstration projects. The education section features Project WET, Project WILD, Climate Change, Prairie Water Care, Sturgeon Outreach Programs and Ecotourism community partnerships.

Deliver information in support of Authority and partner programs

A number of new publications were produced including eight fact sheets on invasive species in native range land, four riparian publications and Fish Species of Saskatchewan. Most publications are also available on the Authority web site.

A number of feature articles about Authority programs appeared in local papers, electronic media and in stakeholder newsletters. This media exposure facilitated program delivery by raising awareness and providing watershed neighbours with an opportunity to learn from one another.

Information was provided for the training of extension staff and landowners by working with other agencies to deliver 17 workshops and field tours that attracted 418 landowners.

Work with existing funding partners, and identify potential new partners to support program delivery

Throughout the year, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority worked with partner organizations to support programs, workshops and field days. Communications activities highlighted a shared message of promoting sustainable land use practices.

Significant activities during the year included:

- helping the Chaplin and Quill Lakes Tourism Committees produce 14,000 copies of *Saskatchewan Birding Trail Experience Guide* for distribution across Canada and the United States
- assisting in the construction of displays for the expanded Nature Centre at Chaplin and setting up a video camera in the middle of Chaplin Lake to provide a live feed to the Nature Centre
- continuing work on the new Quill Lakes Interpretive Centre at Wynyard
- installing three new short-range FM radio stations along the Yellow Head Highway to educate visitors about birding in the area

Deliver teacher education programs linked to the Saskatchewan curricula

Activities during 2003-2004 focused on creating awareness of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's role in watershed management and developing a network within the education community for further delivery of water and watershed management related educational initiatives, especially Project WILD, Project WET, and Climate Change Education. During the year, more than 1,300 educators were directly reached at 49 educational events, including conferences, certification workshops and leadership development events. Project WET received significant public profile in conjunction with the *Make a Splash!* water festival at Lumsden School in September 2003.

Encourage the development of volunteer monitoring activities such as Lake stewardship / co-management programs

The Authority worked with a number of volunteer monitoring and watershed groups including seven lake stewardship groups and seven watershed creek groups to increase awareness and understanding of factors affecting water quality and watershed health.

Water quality-monitoring programs were established at several high-use recreational lakes. Local volunteers and Authority staff worked together to collect water samples throughout the summer and winter that were submitted for analysis. Field measurements for dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity profiles and pH were taken and riparian health assessments were completed on five lakes. This included examining vegetation, soil composition and hydrology to help assess watershed health.

Creek groups monitored water on a monthly basis for eight parameters including phosphate, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, pH, total dissolved solids and fecal coliforms. Macro invertebrates were also collected and identified at some sites.

Financial Statements

for the fiscal year ending

March 31, 2004

Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

Management has prepared the financial statements of the Authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for government organizations. The financial data included elsewhere in this report is consistent with the financial statements and the underlying information from which the Authority prepared these financial statements.

Management has the primary responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements. To fulfill this responsibility, the Authority maintains appropriate systems of internal controls, policies and procedures. These systems provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that the books and records reflect the authorized transactions of the Authority.

MeyersNorrisPenny LLP, the Authority's external auditors, have examined the March 31, 2004 financial statements and their report follows.

The Board of Directors of Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has examined and approved the statements.

On behalf of the Authority,

Stuart Kramer
President

April 29, 2004

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan:

We have audited the statement of financial position of Saskatchewan Watershed Authority as at March 31, 2004 and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, change in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Authority's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority as at March 31, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for government.

Meyers Norris Penny LLP

Chartered Accountants

Regina, Saskatchewan
April 29, 2004

Statement 1

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31

	2004	2003 (Restated note 3)
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	$ 2,019	$ 269
Accounts receivable	3,803	4,352
	5,822	4,621
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	1,652	2,007
Deferred revenue (note 4)	1,216	1,182
Deferred funding (note 5)	-	294
Other long-term obligations (note 6)	692	573
	3,560	4,056
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	2,262	565
NON FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (note 8)	303,805	303,526
Prepaid expenditures and supplies	184	136
	303,989	303,662
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	$ 306,251	$ 304,227

Commitments and contingencies (note 9)

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board: Lily A Utenhouse

Director

Statement 2

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

Year Ended March 31

	Budget (note 13)	2004	2003 (Restated note 3)
		(Thousands of Dollars)	
REVENUE			
Government of Saskatchewan			
– General Revenue Fund	$ 6,846	$ 6,846	$ 4,364
– Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	1,176	828	786
Water revenue	10,942	10,719	5,255
Contract revenue (Schedule 1)	1,732	1,385	1,975
Other	1,243	1,648	737
	21,939	21,426	13,117
EXPENSES (Schedule 2)			
Operations	7,532	6,872	5,370
Water management	5,633	4,973	2,130
Grants to clients (note 7)	2,037	1,574	1,540
Water management infrastructure	3,755	127	116
Stewardship	2,957	2,435	1,466
Interest	25	41	53
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	3,380	3,119
	21,939	19,402	13,794
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	-	2,024	(677)
Accumulated Surplus – beginning of year as previously reported	701	701	298
Change in accounting policy (note 3)	-	303,526	304,606
Accumulated Surplus – beginning of year as restated	701	304,227	304,904
Accumulated Surplus – end of year	$ 701	$ 306,251	$ 304,227

See accompanying notes

Statement 3

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year Ended March 31

	2004	2003 (Restated note 3)
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
ANNUAL SURPLUS (Deficit)	$ 2,024	$ (677)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(3,659)	(2,039)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,380	3,119
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	(8)	-
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	8	-
	1,745	403
Acquisition of prepaid expenses and supplies	(48)	(122)
Increase in net financial assets	1,697	281
Net financial assets – beginning of year	565	284
Net financial assets – end of year	$ 2,262	$ 565

See accompanying notes

Statement 4

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended March 31

	2004	2003 (Restated note 3)
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN)		
Operating activities:		
Surplus (deficit) for the year	$ 2,024	$ (677)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,380	3,119
Transfer of tangible capital assets from SaskWater	-	325
Net change in non-cash balances relating to operations:		
Accounts receivable and prepaids	501	(130)
Accounts payable and long-term obligations	(236)	363
Deferred revenue and deferred funding	(260)	(42)
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	(8)	-
	5,401	2,958
Capital transactions:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(3,659)	(2,039)
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	8	-
	(3,651)	(2,039)
Financing activity:		
Net decrease in bank indebtedness	-	(650)
Change in cash during the year	1,750	269
Cash – beginning of year	269	-
Cash – end of year	$ 2,019	$ 269

See accompanying notes

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2004

1. STATUS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED AUTHORITY

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (the Authority) was established on October 1, 2002, under the authority of *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*. The Authority is a Treasury Board Crown corporation within the meaning of *The Crown Corporations Act, 1993*. The Authority is a continuing corporation of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation, established by Order in Council 29/90 dated January 10, 1990.

On October 1, 2002, the Saskatchewan Water Corporation transferred involvement in water management activities to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. These activities include the operations, maintenance and rehabilitation of provincially-owned water infrastructure including dams and conveyance channels, as well as the hydrometric, forecasting and regulatory functions of the Corporation.

In accordance with the provisions of *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*, the Authority's general powers and purposes are to manage, administer, develop, control and protect the water, watersheds and related land resources of Saskatchewan and to promote the economical and efficient use, distribution and conservation of the water, watersheds and related land resources.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles appropriate for the public sector. The following accounting principles are considered to be significant:

Tangible Capital Assets
Capital assets are recorded at cost. Internally provided engineering and technical services are capitalized at charge out rates designed to recover salaries, benefits and overhead. The objective of this policy is to recognize the approximate value of design, supervision and administrative services rendered by Authority employees on construction projects. As well, the Authority capitalizes interest expense on debt relating to specific construction projects. Charges for amortization are calculated at the following annual rates:

Tangible Capital Assets	Method	Rate
Buildings and leaseholds	straight-line	2.5% to 5%
Maintenance equipment	diminishing balance or straight-line, as appropriate	6.67% to 30%
Office equipment	straight-line	10% to 30%
Water infrastructure	straight-line	1.67% to 2.5%

March 31, 2004

Grants from the General Revenue Fund
Under the authority of Section 26 of *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*, the Authority receives grants from the General Revenue Fund out of monies appropriated by the legislature. These grants are recorded as revenue when received and are used to fund grant programs, water management infrastructure rehabilitation expenditures and operations.

Revenue Recognition
Contractual revenue received by the Authority from third parties for specific purposes is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Other contractual revenues are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Grants to Clients
Grants provided to clients for a variety of programs are recorded as an expenditure to the Authority if the final approval for the grant payment was made during the year. Where the Authority enters into contractual agreements for project construction under various assistance programs, expenditures are accounted for on an accrual basis.

Post Retirement Benefits Other Than Pension
The Authority administers a benefit relating to a retirement allowance which is paid to eligible employees upon retirement. The Authority has adopted the accrual method of accounting for this benefit whereby the cost of providing the benefits is recorded when the related services of employees are performed.

Measurement Uncertainty
The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Significant areas requiring the use of management estimates related to the estimated cost of tangible capital assets and useful lives of assets for amortization periods.

3. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

During the year, the Authority early adopted the new Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) recommendation 3150 – Tangible Capital Assets on a retroactive basis and prior years have been restated accordingly. The new standard requires that all tangible capital assets be accounted for and reported as assets on the statement of financial position and amortization is reported on the statement of operations and accumulated surplus.

The effect of adopting this new recommendation was to increase accumulated surplus beginning of year by $303,526,000 (2003 - $304,606,000), recognize amortization of $3,380,000 (2003 - $3,119,000), decrease expenditures by $3,659,000 (2003 - $2,039,000) for tangible capital assets that were previously expensed and now are recorded as additions to tangible capital assets and the annual surplus increased by $279,000 (2003 - decreased by $1,080,000).

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

At year-end, the Authority has received funding for various projects but has not yet completed the projects. The balance that remains in deferred revenue represents the depredation fund established for the Souris Basin project to deal with wildlife and waterfowl depredation prevention and compensation.

	2004	2003
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
Balance, beginning of year	$ 1,182	$ 90
Contractual revenues received	65	64
Transferred from SaskWater	-	1,134
Amortization of revenue	(31)	(106)
	$ 1,216	$ 1,182

5. PUBLIC POLICY EXPENDITURES AND DEFERRED FUNDING

As an agency of the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan, the Authority incurs expenditures for various physical works for which it retains ownership. A public policy expenditure is recorded when such works do not directly produce sufficient revenue to finance their costs.

These expenditures relate to the Souris Basin project. Construction costs of this project were funded by the General Revenue Fund, the U.S. Government and Saskatchewan Power Corporation. Amounts received in excess of expenditures incurred are recorded as deferred funding. The fund was depleted in 2003-2004.

	2004	2003
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
Balance, date of transfer of water management activities	$ 294	$ 294
Expenditures	(294)	-
Balance, end of year	$ -	$ 294

March 31, 2004

6. OTHER LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The retirement allowance, which is an unfunded employee benefit, is discounted at an interest rate of 4.25% (2003 - 5.5%). The amount of allowances disbursed in the year were $33,100 (2003 - $8,900).

7. GRANTS TO CLIENTS

Included in expenditures are grants or assistance provided to various persons and organizations to carry out a variety of programs administered by the Authority. In addition, where the condition of financial assistance for certain programs requires the Authority to provide engineering or technical services, an allocation of salaries to grant expenditure is made. Particulars of these grants, including salary allocation of $430,800 (2003 - $304,300), by program, are as follows:

	2004	2003
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
Flood Control & Drainage	$ 653	$ 708
Water Quality	348	184
Stewardship	573	648
	$ 1,574	$ 1,540

8. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2004 Net Book Value	2003 Net Book Value
			(Thousands of Dollars)	
Land	$ 5,155	$ -	$ 5,155	$ 5,155
Buildings and leaseholds improvements	187	94	93	103
Maintenance equipment	1,170	880	290	191
Office equipment	1,433	1,282	151	181
Water infrastructure	368,663	70,547	298,116	297,896
	$ 376,608	$ 72,803	$ 303,805	$ 303,526

March 31, 2004

9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Contractual Commitments

As of March 31, 2004, the Authority has outstanding commitments of $527,700 (2003 - $1,220,700) for construction contracts, consulting agreements and land owner agreements.

Leases

The Authority has entered into various operating lease agreements with the following minimum lease payments:

	(Thousands of Dollars)
2005	$ 884
2006	734
2007	616
2008	602
2009	290
2010 and thereafter	-
	$ 3,126

Litigation

The Authority is party to a number of lawsuits and has provided for these claims in its accounts in accordance with management's best estimates and the advice received from legal counsel. The Authority intends to account for any differences which may arise, between amounts provided and amounts expended, in the period in which the claims are resolved.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown corporations, departments, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Authority by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan and non-Crown corporations and enterprises subject to joint control or significant influence by the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as related parties).

Routine operating transactions with related parties are settled at prevailing market prices under normal trade terms. These transactions and amounts outstanding at year end, are as follows:

	2004	**2003**
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
Water, contract and other revenue	$ 12,243	$ 7,450
Expenditures	2,627	1,436
Accounts receivable	2,325	3,109
Accounts payable	229	369

Other amounts and transactions due to and from related parties and the terms of settlement are described separately in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

March 31, 2004

11. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation. The 2003 figures reflect the operations of Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation for six months (April - September, 2002) plus those of the Authority, as of October 1, 2002, which are comprised of the operations of the former Saskatchewan Wetland Corporation plus the additional water management activities transferred from Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's recognized financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and other long-term obligations.

Credit Risk

The Authority is exposed to credit risk from the potential default of customers. However, approximately one-half of the Authority's accounts receivable are from related parties, other government corporations and agencies.

Fair Values

The fair values of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their carrying value due to the short-term nature of these instruments. Fair values of other long-term obligations approximate their carrying values. These were estimated using current discount rates.

13. BUDGET FIGURES

The budget figures are presented for comparison purposes. The Authority's Board of Directors approved this budget on March 14, 2003. The budget was based on the prior year accounting guidelines whereby tangible capital assets were recorded as expenditures in the year acquired and therefore no amortization was recorded.

Schedules for Year Ended March 31

Schedule 1 – Contract Revenue

	2004	2003
	(Thousands of Dollars)	
Canadian Wildlife Service	$ 250	$ 250
Environment Canada	387	557
Fisheries & Oceans Canada	-	123
Wildlife Habitat Canada	40	201
United States – Federal & State	184	323
Other	524	521
	$ 1,385	$ 1,975

Schedule 2 – Expenses by Program

	Operations	Water Management	Grants to Clients	Water Management Infrastructure	Stewardship	Interest & Amortization	2004 Total	2003 Total
							(Thousands of Dollars)	
Salaries and benefits	$ 11,102	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1	$ -	$ 11,103	$ 5,733
Travel and other staff costs	460	246	56	3	308	-	1,073	591
Professional services	122	114	88	6	38	-	368	424
Office supplies	684	47	11	1	22	-	765	646
Materials	14	113	3	-	40	-	170	120
Contractual services	345	512	55	-	39	-	951	608
Cash grants	-	-	938	-	-	-	938	1,045
Salary allocations	(7,176)	3,661	431	112	1,966	-	(1,006)	(407)
Other expenses	1,321	280	(8)	5	21	3,421	5,040	5,034
Total	$ 6,872	$ 4,973	$ 1,574	$ 127	$ 2,435	$ 3,421	$ 19,402	$ 13,794

Annual Performance Plan 2004-2005 – Plan At A Glance

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is a new organization, created in October 2002. This is a summary of our first published performance plan, covering the 2004-05 fiscal year and beyond. The plan provides long-term goals and objectives that the Authority will work toward over a number of years.

A good plan must evolve as circumstances change. The Authority will review its goals and objectives annually, develop new key actions and work to develop a more complete set of performance measures.

Our Vision – Excellence in watershed management promoting safe, sustainable water supplies in healthy ecosystems
Goal 1 – Safe and sustainable water supply
Objective 1: Water management infrastructure is safe and meets operational requirements Performance measures: • Risk ratio for the province's water management infrastructure • Number of dams requiring significant upgrades to meet dam safety standards
Objective 2: Water supply is reliable Performance measures: • Measures are under development
Objective 3: Flood damage is minimized Performance measures: • Number of urban municipalities adopting acceptable flood hazard zoning bylaws
Goal 2 – Healthy watersheds and aquifers
Objective 1: Source waters and watersheds are protected Performance measures: • Number of completed watershed plans
Objective 2: Public is aware of the importance of healthy watersheds Performance measures: • Measures are under development

WHERE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information can be obtained by visiting the Authority's website at **www.swa.ca**, calling its head office in Moose Jaw at 306-694-3900, or contacting the water inquiry line toll free at 1-866-SASK-H2O (1-866-727-5420).

Saskatchewan
Watershed
Authority

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Public Accounts for the Year Ended March 31, 2004

GENERAL COSTS

Listed are payees who received $20,000 or more for the provision of goods and services:

ABC Electric & Furniture Ltd.	$	117,242
Acadia Construction		220,248
Accord Resolution Services Inc		39,690
Alliance Energy Ltd.		22,150
Armtec Limited		33,726
Autodesk Inc. – Dept 8		26,396
Balfour Moss		410,070
Cansel		36,000
Carruthers Sand & Gravel		25,387
Clifton Associates Ltd.		26,871
Dominion Divers Ltd.		27,265
Elance Steel Fabricating Co.		31,101
Fairford Developments Inc.		424,195
Fox, James		58,860
Golder Associates		23,968
H.C.L. Construction Ltd.		769,808
Hearn Stratton Construction		44,361
Henderson Insurance Inc.		69,113
Hoskin Scientific Limited		64,513
Information Services Corp.		25,734
Information Services Corp. – Land Registry		87,357
International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies		83,406
Jump.Ca		168,470
Kontzamanis Graumann Smith		358,652
Meyers Norris Penny LLP		77,300
Mondrian Canada Inc.		23,887
Novell		28,288
Prairie Western Reclamation		20,306
Preus Electric Ltd.		27,006
Quest Communications Group		101,868
Receiver General for Canada		366,602
Reid Motors Ltd.		34,711
Rental Service Corporation		22,443
Royal Bank of Canada – Chaseheld		52,710
Sask Power		99,416
Sask Property Management Corp.		992,658
Sask Research Council		135,695
Sask Tel CMR		183,692
Sask Tel Mobility		51,261
Sask Water Corporation		186,586
Selkirk Machine Works (1982)		37,315
Supreme Basics		40,727
Terramax Sitework Limited		88,828
Turnbull Excavating Ltd.		27,522
Vector Construction Ltd.		82,872
Wascana Property Management		56,676
WBM Office Systems Inc.		37,443
Xerox Canada Ltd.		47,058
Supplier Payments Under $20,000		404,857
Total payments to suppliers	**$**	**6,422,310**

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Listed are payments made to delivering agents which total $5,000 or more:

Ackerman, Fred	$	22,500
Balas, Orin		12,000
Bartok, Duane & Cindy		5,200
Beierbach, Ryan		7,244
Berglund Livestock		5,027
Bowes, Murray		6,400
Bratton , John		11,301
Burgis Conservation Area Authority		5,302
Carruthers, Neil & Gail		13,000
Clark, Randall & Sandra		6,766
Dow, Ian & Joan Harmsworth		18,082
Flaman, Dwight		6,111
Fletts Springs Conservation Area Authority		6,623
Francis, Harry		10,000
Fuhr, Leo & Jonathan		6,896
Gallagher, Jim & Carol		9,323
Gavelin, Dwight & Larson, Jody		10,192
Gosselin, Mark		7,706
Gravelbourg North Conservation Area Authority		5,350
Hall, John		7,750
Hicks, Karla		12,999
Highsaw, Brian		15,072
Holdstock, Roger		32,000
Huys, Daniel		11,123
Huys, Louis		10,250
Kelln Solar		7,668
Kistner, Greg		9,135
Lake Johnson Grazing Co-op		8,750
Lanigan Creek – Dellwood Brook Water Users Association		17,816
Larsen, Len		10,000
Legault, Karson		16,000
Lund Conservation Area Authority		8,089
Mackenzie, Glen, Liz & Neil		6,126
Moffat, Al		7,900
Moose Range Conservation Area Authority		30,618
Nature Conservancy of Canada		8,073
Nipawin Conservation Area Authority		8,331
Paradon, Braden		20,000
Parankewich, Tom		15,000
Pengilly, Ben & Lee		10,000
R.M. of Sherwood #159		6,250
Richmond, Marshall		9,601
Shand Creek Conservation Area Authority		14,081
Smoky Burn Conservation Area Authority		7,228
Someday Ranch Inc.		17,609
Souris Conservation Area Authority		24,039
Spalding Conservation Area Authority		5,560
St. Gregor South Conservation Area Authority		9,125
St. Peter Conservation Area Authority		18,932
Stevenson, Donald		7,500
Thorsteinson Land & Livestock		10,000
Tytlandsvik, Allan		12,664

Listed are payments made to delivering agents which total $5,000 or more: (Continued)

University of Saskatchewan	17,500
Walsh, Tom	5,162
Wascana Conservation Area Authority	35,546
White Ranches	18,000
Wilson, Kevin & Colette	10,000
Young, Dale	7,935
Payments under $5,000 to Delivering Agents	253,516
Total payments to delivering agents	**$ 937,971**

PERSONAL SERVICES

Listed are individuals (excluding unionized employees) who received payments for salaries, wages and taxable benefits which total $2,500 or more:

Name	Amount
Acharya, Mohanath	$ 51,818
Adam, Arlene	39,683
Anholt, Glen	31,193
Barisow, Dave	2,656
Barkway, Terry	78,520
Bryck, Murray	85,414
Carles, Bob	103,038
Chamulak, Terry	69,396
Chandna, Dharam Pal	69,396
Clark, Lorraine	35,040
Crocker, James	14,848
Davis, Stephen	8,989
Dill, Donald	86,016
Duncan, William	105,792
Dybvig, Wayne	125,447
Euteneier, Dalvin	74,724
Fahlman, John	78,591
Fossum, Sharilee	96,658
French, Malcolm	67,101
Geissler, Vern	69,743
Gerhart, James	92,568
Gobert, Garnet	69,743
Hall, Lesley	24,893
Hanley, P. Terry	50,176
Harrison, Tom	81,924
Hjertaas, Dale	87,762
Hosler, Lyle	69,396
Hymers, Eldon	86,016
Hymers, Theresa	92,568
Ireland, Bryan	106,321
Johnson, Douglas	92,568
Kozusko, Douglas	69,396
Jones, Henry	22,007
Kaminski, Thomas	69,743
Kilgour, Douglas	69,396
Maciag, Joseph	75,287
Mackisey, Roberta	53,545
Mander, Karen	39,816

Listed are individuals (excluding unionized employees) who received payments for salaries, wages and taxable benefits which total $2,500 or more: (Continued)

McDonald, Glen		81,089
McDougall, T. Micheal		40,178
McGill, Daniel		61,505
Metz, Sharon		65,862
Molde, Clinton		84,868
Oegema, Bart		69,396
Paisley, Robert		66,058
Parker, Robert		86,446
Phillips, Carol		39,954
Rahman, Mohammed		75,191
Ross, Susan		41,604
Rowlett, Dwayne		65,956
Shaheen, Nolan		88,065
Sketchell, Joanne		54,656
Stewart, Brenda		43,272
Tod, Robin		65,874
Tuchscherer, Jonathon		86,661
Waggoner, James		86,016
Wiebe, Robert		86,016
Will, Gordon		71,481
Unionized employees		**5,803,378**
Salaries and taxable benefits under $2,500		3,599
Total salaries and taxable benefits	**$**	**9,714,313**
Employee Benefits		1,449,885
Employee Travel and other costs		1,156,464
Total Employee Costs	**$**	**12,320,662**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$**	**19,680,943**